

Press Release

To: Arkansas Media
From: Robert J. Alvey, Communications Manager
501-324-9006; fax: 501-324-9012
CC: Governor's Office
Date: November 13, 2000
Re: March meeting of the Authority Board of Directors

Board Meets in Little Rock, Elects Officers, Approves Funding for Projects

The mid-term election of officers was the first order of business for the Arkansas Science & Technology Board of Directors, which met in Little Rock on Friday, March 21, for its regularly scheduled meeting.

The special election resulted from term expirations.

At the recommendation of the nominating committee, the Board elected Vice Chair Michael Murphy as Board Chair, succeeding Dr. Roberta Bustin, whose term had ended. Dr. Charles Hathaway was elected vice chair. Hathaway will retain his duties as Board secretary until the annual elections this fall.

Newly elected chair Murphy introduced three new Board members at the start of the meeting: Dr. Merlin Augustine of Fayetteville, William Dempsey of Texarkana and Anthony Rampley of Jonesboro.

The Board approved funding for two National Science Foundation/Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) projects at the recommendation of its Research Committee. The two projects funded were:

- "Formation of an Arkansas Center for Membrane Transport," by Dr. Michael Jennings at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in the amount of \$491,139;
- "Formation of a Center for Ultra-Fast Electronic-Photonic Material Devices," by Dr. Gregory Salamo of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in the amount of \$508,861.

The Board also took action on two other resolutions by:

- approving Draft Resolution 97-11, which provides for the funding of infrastructure support for the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network (This resolution provides funding for Winrock International and Henderson State University for infrastructure support as it relates to the Network.);
- amending Resolution 95-16, a measure providing funds for an Energy and Technology Extension Network Clearinghouse. The original resolution did not allow expenditures in excess of \$200,000.

Since passage, the funds have accrued interest; the Board amended the resolution to allow the interest to be spent.

The next scheduled Board meeting is May 16. Location and schedule details will be provided at a later date.

The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority serves as a statewide funding resource for high quality scientific and technological projects. The Authority endeavors to bring the benefits of science and technology to the people and state of Arkansas through scientific research, technology development, business innovation, and education.

Board Action, March 21, 97/Bdmtg/News/Communications Manager/e